AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4.   (previously presented) A method providing a stand-alone
testing environment for a test object functional element of a
computer system, said test object functional element having a
plurality of interfaces for coupling with other elements of said
computer system, said interfaces being of a type which provide
communication between functional elements and which employ a
predetermined interface protocol for inter-processing
communication whose mode of operation involves a shared memory
such that information communicated through said interfaces is
passed between said functional elements by a process of
notifying the addressed functional element that information is
ready and providing the addressed functional element with its
location in said shared memory, wherein said predetermined
interface protocol is further of a type in which the location of
information is distributed among a set of at least two
hierarchical levels of a database formed in association with
said shared memory, said hierarchical levels being organized by
degree of generality of functional interface task information to
be stored therein, said method comprising:

        providing a computerized dialog to enable a user to create
            an input data file for said test object functional

element in a form for subsequently being stored in an

identifiable location in said shared memory;

prompting a user for at least one functional element

interface task which has been previously developed

utilizing said stand alone testing environment and

which is of form compliant with said predetermined

interface protocol and which is stored with its

identifiable location in said shared memory;

starting said at least one functional element interface

task utilizing said computer dialog created input data

file;

monitoring said plurality of interfaces; and

creating a test case generation file by providing the user

with a corresponding set of task creation options

related to said at least one functional element

interface task individually operative with a degree of

generality of functional task information that is to

be stored in a corresponding individual level of said

set of at least two hierarchical levels of said

database.

5.   (previously presented) The method of claim 4 further
comprising storing a unique interface file corresponding to each
functional element interface task selected by a user in response
to said prompting.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 further
comprising storing said user created input data file in a user
defined functional element interface task file such that said
user created file may be viewed and edited outside of said stand
alone testing environment.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 11 wherein said
step of creating a test generation file further comprises
selecting test initiation features.

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) The A method of claim 7 for testing a
test object functional element of a computer system with a

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stand-alone functional element test tool, said test object

functional element having at least one interface for

communicating with other functional elements of said computer

system, said at least one interface having a predetermined

interface protocol for inter-processing communication, wherein

said predetermined interface protocol for inter-processing

communication employs a mode of operation involving a memory

shared among said test object and said other functional elements

and in which information to be communicated through the

interface is passed between functional elements by a process of

notifying an addressed functional element that data is ready and

providing the addressed functional element with a corresponding

location in said shared memory, said interface protocol further

being of a type in which a location of information is

distributed among a set of at least two hierarchical levels of a

database formed in association with said shared memory, said

hierarchical levels being organized by degree of generality of

functional interface task information, ~~and the~~ said method

~~further comprises~~ comprising:

>   creating an input data file for said test object functional

>   element by prompting a user for data format and

>   content compatible with said predetermined interface

>   protocol;

storing said input data file;

creating a test generation file by providing said user with

a plurality of task creation options whereby selected

task creation options are input into said test

generation file which is written in a predetermined

high level interface programmers' language adapted for

compilation into computer code executable statements

compatible with said predetermined protocol;

said step of providing the user with a plurality of task

options including providing at least one corresponding

set of options individually operative with a

corresponding individual level of said set of at least

two hierarchical levels of said database[[.]];

compiling said test generation file and said input data

file to produce a test case executable file in a

preferred programming language based on said selected

task creation options;

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initiating a test utilizing said test case executable file

and said input data file for testing said test object

functional element and said at least one interface by

monitoring a status of said test; and

storing test result data related to said test.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising

displaying said input data to a user on a file viewer.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 11 further

comprising comparing said test result data with expected results

from said test object functional element utilizing said input

data file.

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) The system of claim [[14]] 19 wherein:

said input data structure is utilized to prompt a user for

test case data being in a form cooperatively

associated with said predetermined interface